



State of North Carolina  
Office of the Governor

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**GOV. EASLEY ISSUES EXECUTIVE ORDER CURBING STATE ENERGY USE**  
*Urges Citizens to Conserve and Prepare for Winter Heating Season*

RALEIGH - Gov. Mike Easley today issued an Executive Order directing state agencies to implement a plan to reduce energy consumption by 5 percent annually. Energy costs are expected to rise dramatically for the coming heating season, with natural gas prices rising more than 50 percent and heating oil and propane prices increasing more than 30 percent over last year's prices.

"The single most effective way to control energy costs here in North Carolina is through conservation, and state government is going to lead by example. I have directed state employees to reduce their energy use to save taxpayer dollars, reduce overall demand and help drive energy prices down for all consumers."

According to conservative estimates, these price increases will increase the average home utility bills by \$300 to 400 over the course of the heating season. Without the conservation measures ordered today, higher energy prices could increase state government utility costs by as much as \$20-25 million during the same period.

Executive Order No. 92 requires state agencies to achieve energy savings through immediate steps such as turning off lights, computers and other office equipment that are not in use. In addition, it requires more consistent control of office space temperatures. The order also requires state agencies to make cost effective investments and adopt sustainable practices that reduce energy costs over the long term.

Easley offered the tips that consumers can use to offset this winter's heating costs through simple conservation steps in their own homes:

- Install or replace worn weather stripping on exterior doors, windows or attic entry doors.
- Set your heating system's thermostat at the lowest comfortable temperature and set your water heater thermostat to 120 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Replace the filters on your heating system every 30-45 days, or sooner as necessary.
- During daylight hours, open shades and draperies on south-facing windows and close them at night to reduce heat loss.
- When replacing your heating and cooling equipment, be sure to select energy efficient units.
- When not in use, turn off electronic equipment such as televisions, computers and monitors.